

## ABSTRACT

A communication system for providing instant messaging and presence services among users of a communications network. The system comprising a user  
5 subscribed to the service and arranged to send a plurality of requests, each request comprising a user identity corresponding to at least one user of a first set of users of the network. The system also comprising a server having an access point arranged to receive the requests from the user, and having a service element for providing the service and wherein a second set of users are  
10 subscribed to the service element. The system also having circuitry for checking which of the users in the second set match with the users in the first set.